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Application Number 10/506364
Response to Office Action dated 03/20/2007

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A discharge lamp device, comprising:
 - a cylindrical arc tube containing a discharge medium;
 - an internal electrode provided in the arc tube; and
 - an external electrode unit attached to an outside of the arc tube,wherein the external electrode unit includes: external electrodes arranged intermittently at plural places in a direction of a tube axis, each having a part adjoining an outer wall surface of the arc tube; and
 - an engaging part that integrally links the external electrodes, ~~and is engaged with the arc tube, and~~
 - ~~a part of the engaging part holds the arc tube, so that the external electrode unit is held around the arc tube, and~~
 - the external electrode unit formed as an electrode member incorporating the external electrodes and the engaging part so as to be shaped to cover half or more of the arc tube in a circumferential direction;
 - a dielectric member interposed between the arc tube and the external electrode unit,
 - the external electrode unit being elastic so as to press the dielectric member against the outer wall surface of the arc tube so as to be held around the arc tube by itself,
 - and
 - a voltage is applied between the internal electrode and the external electrode, thereby lighting the arc tube.
2. (Cancelled)

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3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The discharge lamp device according to claim [[3]]1, wherein the external electrode is made of conductive metal, is attached to an outside of the dielectric member, and has a part in contact with the dielectric member.

5. (Currently Amended) The discharge lamp device according to claim [[3]]1, wherein an area of a portion where the dielectric member and the outer wall surface of the arc tube are in contact with each other is equal to or less than 50% of a surface area of the arc tube.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The discharge lamp device according to claim [[2]]1, wherein the electrode member incorporating the external electrodes and the engaging part is arranged inside the dielectric member by insert molding.

8. (Original) The discharge lamp device according to claim 1, wherein the external electrode unit includes the engaging part made of a dielectric material shaped to cover half or more of the arc tube in a circumferential direction, and the external electrode is held in a central region of the engaging part in a circumference direction of the arc tube.

9. (Currently Amended) The discharge lamp device according to claim [[3]]1, wherein the dielectric member is elastic and presses the outer wall surface of the arc tube.

10. (Currently Amended) The discharge lamp device according to claim [[3]]1, wherein at least a part of the dielectric member reflects light emitted from the arc tube in a specific direction.

11. (Currently Amended) The discharge lamp device according to claim [[3]]1, wherein at least a part of the dielectric member is made of a light blocking material.

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12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The discharge lamp device according to claim [[3]]1, wherein at least a part of an outer surface of the dielectric member is uneven.

14. (Currently Amended) The discharge lamp device according to claim [[3]]1, wherein a thickness of the dielectric member is changed partially.

15. (Original) The discharge lamp device according to claim 1, wherein an interval between the external electrodes in the direction of the tube axis is not less than 1.0 mm nor more than 50 mm.

16. (Original) The discharge lamp device according to claim 1, wherein the discharge medium is an inert gas including at least one of xenon, krypton, argon, neon, and helium.

17. (Original) The discharge lamp device according to claim 16, wherein the discharge medium further includes mercury.

18. (Original) The discharge lamp device according to claim 1, wherein a phosphor layer is adhered to an inner wall surface of the arc tube.

19. (Previously Presented) A backlight comprising:
the discharge lamp device according to claim 1; and
a light control member for causing light generated by the discharge lamp device to spread out into a planar form.

20. (Original) The backlight according to claim 19, wherein the light control member is a light guide element or a light reflector.

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21. (New) The discharge lamp device according to claim 1, wherein the dielectric member has a lower dielectric constant than that of a glass forming the arc tube.

22. (New) The discharge lamp device according to claim 1, wherein the dielectric member comprises a sheet formed of polyester resin.